

## Children's Department.

### A LITTLE CHILD'S ANSWER.

Our little lad came in one day  
With dusty shoes and tired feet;  
His play-time had been hard and long,  
Out in the summer's noontide heat.  
"I'm glad I'm home," he cried and hung  
His torn straw hat up in the hall,  
While in the corner by the door,  
He but away his bat and ball.

"I wonder why," his auntie said,  
"This little lad always comes here  
When there are many other homes,  
As nice as this and quite as near?"  
He stood a moment deep in thought,  
Then with the love-light in his eye,  
He pointed where his mother sat,  
And said, "She lives here; that is why!"  
—*Christian Advocate.*

From Cerro Gordo, Ill.

As I have seen a great many letters in the EVANGELIST from the children, I thought I would write one too. We are having Sunday-school at our schoolhouse this summer. We have preaching also every two weeks. I do not go to school this summer. There are no Brethren churches around here. I hope there will be before long. Mama and papa belong to the Brethren church. I will close by asking a question. How old was Samuel when he died?  
VIOLA DERR.

### WHY HATTIE'S FOLKS WONDERED.

When Hattie went to church or Sunday-school, she usually listened or not, just as she felt like it. Perhaps you have seen some other children just like her. But then you know sometimes words *stick* just as burrs would if they were thrown at you, and one day Hattie heard a word or two out of the Sunday-school lesson in spite of herself. Heard with her heart, I mean. The words you only hear with your ears don't count. You never get any good out of them.

"Words of grace," the teacher read out of the lesson-book. "I wonder *why* they wondered! Sweet words, I suppose it means—beautiful, kind words. I should think those were just the kind of words they might have expected from Jesus. If it had been one of us, now!"

The teacher did not say any more, for just then the superintendent's bell rang, and you had to keep still, no matter how much your tongue ached to talk and ask questions. So Hattie had to do her thinking on the way home, and not so very much of it then either, for who should come up behind her but Annie Libby, a girl that Hattie *per-fect-ly* *abom-i-nated*! That is a long word and I would never think of using it, but I actually heard lit-

tle Hattie roll it off her tongue as if it had no more than two syllables in it.

She tried to walk a little faster, but Annie ran a step or two and locked her arm right in.

"O Hattie! *have* you learned your lessons for Monday? Because I haven't!"

It was on the tip end of Hattie's tongue to say something mean and hateful about "never knowing her to," and telling her right out that she was too busy Monday mornings to show any stupid dunces how to get their lessons, but all at once one of those burr-words that I told you about came right into her mind.

"Sweet words—beautiful, kind words—words of grace."

"Haven't you?" she said pleasantly after a minute. "Well, we don't recite till after recess, and maybe I can show you a little!"

It wasn't much to say, but somehow it was the way she said it. Homely Annie lifted up her freckled face and looked as if she were going to kiss her right there on the street. Instead, she only pinched her arm and said good-by in a kind of a thankful little voice as she went down a side street. Hattie watched her go. Somehow she didn't dislike her quite so much as usual. You don't if you are kind to people.

At home all the rest of that day the folks wondered. Hattie had what is called a sharp tongue. It isn't a very pleasant kind of a tongue to live with. But to-day there seemed to be a lump of sugar on it. Every time she opened her mouth to speak, those same words came up to her and she couldn't be quite so cross as usual. Another thing she noticed too. It kept growing easier and easier all the time. Just try it, and you will see how it is. And so when bedtime came, and Hattie was going round to give good-night kisses, father said jokingly: "I've been wondering all day what in the world makes Hattie so maple-sugary."

Hattie laughed and wouldn't tell but to her mamma she whispered it. "I'm so glad!" said mother.

"It's the first time," said Hattie, "but it won't be the last. I mean to try to set a good many people wondering. It's so nice to have them look up in that quick odd way, to see if it's really you, when you don't 'snap back,' or mind about cross speeches! They *expect* the cross words, you see, but they don't know what to make of the other kind. They don't know that it's because I want to be like Jesus. I think he always said sweet words—beautiful, kind words. My teacher said that is what 'words of grace' meant. Perhaps by and by, I shall get used to saying them!"

## Items of Interest.

—101 private pension bills were passed by the House of Representatives on May 15.

—Over 200 persons were killed in the cyclone at Sherman, Texas.

—The total loss of life by recent cyclones in Kansas is twenty eight; the property loss \$600,000.

—Alfred C. Harrison and Thomas McKean each contributed \$100,000 to the University of Pennsylvania.

—It is reported that General Weyler's funds in Cuba are about exhausted, and that he has very little credit.

—A new oil field has been struck near Marion, Ohio. A well 1,600 feet deep is yielding 300 barrels of oil daily.

—It is said that of the 918 delegates elected to the St. Louis Convention, 592 are pledged to vote for McKinley.

—The United States Senate passed a bill May 18, appropriating \$280,000 for a public building at Deadwood, S. D.

—The Illinois Supreme Court has decided that the Cody law, closing barber shops on Sunday, is unconstitutional.

—Queen Victoria's seventy-seventh birthday was widely celebrated in Great Britain and British provinces, May 24.

—Four hundred spinners will be thrown out of work by the closing down of the Naumkeag cotton mills at Salem, Mass., June 1.

—The coronation of the czar and czarina at Moscow took place May 26. Quite a number of distinguished royal personages were present.

—It is stated on good authority that Senator Quay will urge McKinley to lend his influence toward nominating Governor Hastings of Pennsylvania, for vice president.

—President Daniel C. Gilman, of Johns Hopkins University, is said to have signified his willingness to accept the post of superintendent of greater New York schools.

—John Baum, aged 90, and Emeline Hendrick, aged 60, were married at Valparaiso, Ind. The bride was given the deed to a farm worth \$8,000 before the knot was tied.

—It is said that the Sultan of Turkey suffered last week from fear of assassination, caused by the death of the shah of Persia, to allay which he had 200 Armenians arrested and tortured. May 15, he was still making arrests.